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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Klaus Abend

Docket No.: 00-587

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Art Unit :

PCT No. : PCT/DE00/00183

IFD : January 21, 2000

For : METHOD OF AUTOMATIC FAULT DETECTION BY CRACK  
DETECTION BY THE DYE PENETRANT METHOD

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks  
United States Patent & Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and  
1.98, Applicant hereby submits the prior art listed hereinbelow,  
copies enclosed.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 3,762,216, entitled AUTOMATED LIQUID  
PENETRANT INSPECTION SYSTEM, By Emilio Mendoza,  
patented October 2, 1973. This patent discloses a  
simple crack detecting method which does not take into  
consideration the critical kinetics of the dye  
penetrant material which concentrates at cracks only  
for some time.

- (2) German Patent No. 196 39 020, published April 2, 1998.  
This document relates to normal crack testing methods  
- not to the evaluation of the crack testing kinetical  
parameters.
- (3) German Patent No. 34 40 473, published May 7, 1996.  
This document discloses a method involving evaluating  
camara images of the surface prepared with magnetic  
powder or coloring. It relates generally to crack  
testing and to the evaluation of conventional crack  
testing results without any mentioning of the problems  
linked to kinetics of the crack testing penetrant.
- (4) German Patent No. 195 27 446, published October 31,  
1996. This document relates to the state of the art  
of crack testing - there is no mentioning of the  
kinetics of the penetrant.
- (5) German Patent No. 37 31 947, published September 23,  
1987. The document is in German, however, an English  
equivalent is provided. U.S. Patent No. 5,047,851,  
entitled PROCESS AND DEVICE FOR DETECTING AND

EVALUATING SURFACE CRACKS IN WORKPIECES, By Sauerwein et al., patented September 10, 1991. This patent relates to the state of the art of crack testing - there is no mentioning of the kinetics of the penetrant.

Item Nos. (1), (2) and (3) were cited in the International Search Report. Item Nos. (4) and (5) were cited by the German Patent Office.

The undersigned submits the above-identified references for independent consideration by the Examiner and does not make any admission that these references are or are not material to the present invention or that these references are or are not prior art with respect to the present invention.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

on September 21, 2000

(Date of Deposit)

Rachel Piscitelli

Name and Reg. No. of Attorney

Rachel Piscitelli

Signature

September 21, 2000

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

Klaus Abend

By 

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Date: September 21, 2000

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